

In re Patent Application of
CLARK ET AL.
Serial No. 10/787,515
Filed: FEBRUARY 26, 2004

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A communications system comprising:

 a plurality of account databases each for storing information associated with different accounts;

 a central database for storing location information associating each account with a respective account database, and also for storing shared system setup information;

 at least one communications device for accessing account information; and

 an interface device for

 receiving an account access request from said at least one communications device for a desired account,

 retrieving account location information from said central database for the desired account, and initially interfacing said at least one communications device with said respective account database associated with the desired account based thereon, and

 caching the account location information and using the cached account location information for ~~subsequently~~ interfacing said at least one communications device with said respective account database subsequent to the initial interfacing of the at least one communications device;

said interface device also retrieving and caching the shared system setup information for use in interfacing said at least one communications device with said respective account database.

2. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said interface device comprises a caching module for caching the account location information.

3. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one communications device has an operating protocol associated therewith, and wherein said interface device comprises at least one protocol interface module for communicating with said at least one communications device using the operating protocol.

4. (Original) The communications system of Claim 3 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module.

5. (Original) The communications system of Claim 3 wherein said interface device further comprises a control module for interfacing said at least one protocol interface module with said central and account databases.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one communications device comprises at least one mobile wireless communications device.

8. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein the accounts comprise electronic mail (e-mail) accounts.

9. (Currently amended) An interface device for interfacing at least one communications device with a plurality of account databases each for storing information associated with different accounts, the interface device comprising:

a control module for receiving an account access request from the at least one communications device for a desired account, retrieving account location information associating the desired account with a respective account database from a central database, and initially interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database associated with the desired account based thereon; and

a caching module coupled to said control module for caching the account location information, said control module using the cached account location information for ~~subsequently~~ interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database subsequent to the initial interfacing of the at least one communications device;

the central database further storing shared system setup information, and said control module also retrieving the

shared system setup information for use in interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database, and said caching module caching the retrieved shared system setup information.

10. (Original) The interface device of Claim 9 wherein the at least one communications device has an operating protocol associated therewith; and further comprising at least one protocol interface module using the operating protocol for interfacing said control module with the at least one communications device.

11. (Original) The interface device of Claim 10 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Original) The interface device of Claim 9 wherein the accounts comprise electronic mail (e-mail) accounts.

14. (Currently amended) A method for interfacing at least one communications device with a plurality of account databases each for storing information associated with different accounts, the method comprising:

receiving an account access request from the at least one communications device for a desired account;

retrieving account location information associating the desired account with a respective account database and shared system setup information from a central database;

initially interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database associated with the desired account based upon the retrieved account location information and the retrieved shared system setup information; and

caching the account location information and the retrieved shared system setup information and using the cached account location information and the retrieved shared system setup information for ~~subsequently~~ interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database subsequent to the initial interfacing of the at least one communications device.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the accounts comprise electronic mail (e-mail) accounts.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for interfacing at least one communications device with a plurality of account databases each for storing information associated with different accounts, the computer-readable medium comprising:

a control module for receiving an account access request from the at least one communications device for a desired account, retrieving account location information associating the desired account with a respective account database from a central database, and initially interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database associated with the desired account based thereon; and

a caching module for caching the account location information, said control module using the cached account location information for ~~subsequently~~ interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database subsequent to the initial interfacing of the at least one communications device;

the central database further storing shared system setup information, said control module also retrieving the shared system setup information for use in interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database, and said caching module caching the retrieved shared system setup information.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 17 wherein the at least one communications device has an operating protocol associated therewith; and further comprising at least one protocol interface module using the operating protocol for interfacing said control module with the at least one communications device.

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19. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 18 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 17 wherein the accounts comprise electronic mail (e-mail) accounts.